

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 12-13, 15 and 17-19 are pending in this application, of which claims 12, 13 and 15 have been amended, and claims 17-19 have been added.

(1) Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35USC§102(b) as being anticipated by Wood et al. (US Patent 5,302,891).

Applicants traverse the rejection because Wood et al. do not disclose the anisotropic conductor and the conductor layer of the present invention. The Office Action asserts that the anisotropic conductor of the present invention corresponds to the conductive traces 45 of Wood et al., and that the conductive layer of the present invention corresponds to elastomeric strip 53 of Wood et al. (Office Action, page 3, lines 1-3). However, there is no disclosure in Wood et al. that the conductive traces 45 are made of an anisotropic material. The anisotropic conductor 5 of the present invention is formed by mixing conductive fine particles with a resin material, generating an electrical conductivity only in the thermo-compression direction (page 8, lines 6-10). In addition, elastomeric strip 53 of Wood et al. is considered to be of an insulative because if it is of a conductive material, short-circuit occurs between bondpads 27 and external connector leads 37. Therefore, Wood et al. do not disclose the conductive layer recited in claim 1. Therefore, the rejection under 35USC§102(b) is not supported by Wood et al. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejection of claim 1 is inconsistent with the rejection of claim 5. In connection with the rejection of claim 1, the Office Action asserts that the conductive trace 45 of Wood et al. corresponds to the anisotropic conductor of the present invention. On the other hand, in connection with the rejection of claim 5, the Office Action seems to assert that the plastic film 43 corresponds to the anisotropic conductor of the present invention. The portion which is disposed approximately cover the entire front surface of the inspection chip is the plastic film 43, which is considered to be insulative. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

(2) Claims 11-16 were rejected under 35USC§103(a) as being unpatentable over Haseyama et al (US Patent 6,229,320) in view of Murphy et al (US Patent 5,702,255).

(i) The finality of the rejection is considered to be inappropriate because as asserted at the Office Action, page 8, lines 8-9, claims 11-16 were rejected in view of the new ground of rejection. In addition, the reference of Murphy et al. is a new reference, which had not been of record.

(ii) Claims 11, 14 and 16 are cancelled, and claims 17-19 are added. The basis of claim 11 is found at original claim 11, Fig.12 and at page 13, line 17 to page 14, line 28. The basis of claim 18 is found at original claim 14, Fig.14 and page 15, lines 13-26. The basis of claim 19 is found at original claim 16.

Application No. 09/926,347
Amendment dated March 2, 2004
Reply Office Action of December 3, 2003

Regarding claims 17 and 19, the upper surface 22 of the chip 12 disclosed by Murphy et al. is not adapted for engaging the chip 12 between the portion 54 and holding table 24.

Regarding claim 18, Murphy et al. do not disclose an engaging member provided on an upper surface of the elastic member. Also, the upper surface 22 of the chip 12 disclosed in Murphy et al. is not adapted for engaging the chip 12 between the portion 54 and holding table 24.

There must be a basis in the Art for combining or modifying references. The Office Action asserts that it would have been obvious to modify the apparatus of Haseyama et al. by including the inspection apparatus with a step down portion as taught by Murphy et al. in order to improve electrical communication between the ball contacts and the terminal pads of the circuit (Office Action, page 5, lines 13-17). However, the step down portion taught by Murphy et al. is not adapted for engaging the inspection apparatus. Thus, even if Haseyama et al. is modified in view of Murphy et al. the invention recited in claims 17 and 18 cannot be obtained. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

(3) In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1-10, 12-13, 15 and 17-19, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

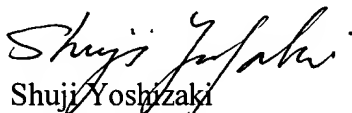
Application No. 09/926,347
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If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned agent at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case. The limited recognition of the agent is attached.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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